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T O T H E  
R I G H T H O N O U R A B L E  
House of L O R D S.

*The Humble Petition of Merchants and Traders of  
Great Britain, and others interested in the Bank,  
East-India, or South-Sea Company, Sufferers by  
the Fall of Stock,*

*Humbly sheweth:*

**T**H A T your Petitioners being sensible of the Calamity the Nation in general labours under, occasioned by the late unhappy Turn of Affairs:  
And your Petitioners being informed that Mr. *William Van Leute*,  
(who in the Year 1696. was very serviceable to this Kingdom in restoring Publick Credit) doth humbly offer (without a sinking Fund) to redress our present Grievances, restore Publick Credit, and pay off Eighteen Millions of the National Debt, in order as in a Petition or Proposal is set forth.

And your Petitioners (being credibly informed that the same can certainly be done) are humbly of Opinion it will be of great service to the Nation, that it will increase the Reputation of this Kingdom, and answer the end of what his Majesty so earnestly from the Throne recommended to the Parliament.

*And humbly Pray to be heard by Council or otherwise before the Ingrafting  
Bill do pass.*

*And your Petitioners shall Pray, &c.*

**I**T is the general Opinion, that the Ingrafting Eighteen Millions of the *South-Sea* Stock and Fund, upon the *Bank* and *East-India* Company, will not restore Publick Credit, but to the contrary, may prove very prejudicial to all the said Companies and to the Nation in general; for the *Bank* and *East-India* Company will not be able to make so great Dividends as now they do, therefore Stock will be less in value, and unless the Government pays the yearly Interest of 5 *l. per Cent.* for above twenty Years, the *South-Sea* Company will be Losers by this Ingraftment.

It is conceived, it will be a National Advantage (in case the Ingrafting Act goes on) to have a Clause inserted, that the Parliament may be at liberty to pay off the Eighteen Millions when they shall think fit and find it will be for the advantage of the Nation, and that then the Ingraftment may cease; for there are persons that offer to pay off this Eighteen Millions within six or nine Months, which will be of great advantage to the said Companies and the Kingdom in General.

It's humbly proposed, if this Honourable House would be pleased to grant the Advantages that can be made by the said 5 *l. per Cent.* Fund (without Ingrafting the same as abovesaid) to all the Poor Sufferers by the fall of *South-Sea* Stock, it would restore Publick Credit without any other Burthen to the Subjects: It shall be made undeniably appear it can certainly be done.